

## *No. 49 - Lahontan Basins Integrated Regional Water Management Region*

### Region Acceptance Process Summary

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#### **General Description of Region**

The Lahontan Basins Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) region occupies an enclosed watershed in the northern portion of the Lahontan Hydrologic Region. It fills most of an existing void area and is contiguous with the Upper Pit River region to the west, the Upper Feather River Watershed region to the southwest, and the Tahoe-Sierra IRWM region to the south. The proposed region includes the Madeline Plains, Honey-Eagle Lake, and the Smoke Creek sub-basins. A remaining void area remains to the north comprising the east side of the Warner Mountains, which is not in the same watershed and contains a very small population with no water management entities. There are no proposed overlaps with existing IRWM regions.

Four water management entities are proposed for inclusion in the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG): Lassen County, Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (RCD), Lassen Irrigation Company, and the City of Susanville. The four signatories have signed a Memorandum of Understanding. Numerous other agencies, non-government organizations, and stakeholders have been involved in water management issues and will continue to collaborate with the RWMG member agencies in development of the IRWM Plan. A tribe, the Susanville Indian Rancheria, has been involved in water management issues in the basin and its involvement will be sought by the RWMG in development of the IRWM plan.

Much of the water management history has been involved in assuring reliable supplies (both quantity and quality) to support agriculture in the region and in maintaining good water quality in support of local fish populations, some of which are endemic to the basin. Watermaster service, previously held by the Department of Water Resources, has been conveyed to the Honey Lake RCD. Other water management issues include impairments for salinity and metals of the Susan River and Honey Lake; maintaining the lake levels of and nutrient impairments in Eagle Lake; and invasive species and groundwater management in the Long Valley Creek drainage.

#### **Interview Conclusions - Approved**

The applicant and RAP materials presented a clear rationale for the boundaries of the proposed region; therefore, the region is approved.